



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#1518
SK
2-13-04

Applicant(s): P. Bonutti

Confirmation No.: 8298

Application No.: 10/003,996

Attorney Docket No: 780-A02-014-8

Filed: November 15, 2001

Group Art Unit: 3731

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR TISSUE
REMOVAL

Examiner: J. Baxter

RESPONSE TO OFFICE COMMUNICATION

Mail Stop AMENDMENT- FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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FEB 09 2004
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Introductory Comments

Dear Sir:

In the Office Communication mailed December 30, 2003, the Examiner stated that "the reply filed on September 23, 2003 is not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because...Applicant has failed to specifically point out the support in the original disclosure for each of the newly presented claim limitations...It is noted that the Applicant refers to columns and lines, however these do not match the specification in the application." The following Response is a resubmission of the Response filed September 23, 2003, except all references to the specification have been reformatted to align with the original disclosure. In accordance with USPTO practice, each section of this Amendment begins on a separate sheet. Claims 36-44, 46, 47, 49, 51-60, and 69-76 remain in this application and are submitted for the Examiner's review and consideration. In this Response, Applicant has amended certain claims and canceled other claims. Applicant believes these amendments, cancellations, and accompanying remarks serve to clarify the present invention and are independent of patentability.

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